

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 05898 161007Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
COME-00 L-03 /036 W
-----095322 161051Z /11

P 160850Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5502
INFO SECDEF WASHDC/ISA/FMRA
/HQ USAF WASHDC/XOXXI/XOXXP
USDAO CANBERRA AT
NATL HURRICAN CTN MIAMI FL
USAFLO CINCPAC REP CANBERRA AT
MAC SCOTT AFB IL/DOO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
ARRS SCOTHAFB IL/DO
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
54 WRS ANDERSON AFB GU
DET 1 1WW NIMITZ HILL GU

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 5898

E. O. 11652: ADS- DECLASSIFY UPON COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: OCLR, MY, US
SUBJ: INDIAN OCEAN TYPHOON (CYCLONE) RECONNAISSANCE

REF: STATE 139753 DTG 021500Z JUN 78

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY HAS FORWARDED REQUEST TO STAGE
SUBJECT INDIAN OCEAN WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS
OUT OF MALAYSIAN AIR BASE AT BUTTERWORTH VIA THIRD
PERSON DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
MFA HAS REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS
PROPOSED PROJECT. ACTION REQUIRED: INFORMATION FOR
USE IN RESPONDING TO MFA QUERIES. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REFTEL, EMBASSY CONVEYED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUALA 05898 161007Z

SUBJECT REQUEST TO MFA VIA THIRD PERSON NOTE
DATED JUNE 13, 1978, OPERATIVE PORTIONS OF WHICH
ARE QUOTED IN PARA 5 BELOW. MFA OFFICIAL HANDLING
US AFFAIRS TELEPHONED EMBASSY THIS MORNING (JUNE
16) TO ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: (A) IN UNDER-
TAKING THIS PROJECT, WHAT OTHER FACILITIES WOULD
THE U.S. BE UTILIZING, E.G. AIRFIELDS IN THAILAND,

DIEGO GARCIA, ETC.? (B) WHAT SORT OF FACILITIES WOULD BE REQUIRED AT BUTTERWORTH TO SUPPORT SUCH MISSIONS, INCLUDING FUEL, ETC.? (C) HOW OFTER WOULD THESE MISSIONS BE UNDERTAKEN (WE INDICATED ABOUT TWICE YEARLY IN OUR NOTE)? (D) HOW LONG DO WE ENVISAGE SUCH APPROVAL TO STAGE SUCH MISSIONS OUT OF BUTTERWORTH TO BE IN EFFECT; I.E., OVER WHAT TIME PAN IN TERMS OF YEARS?

3. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT HE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THIS INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE REQUEST COULD BE CIRCULATED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OTHER RELEVANT GOM AGENCIES.

4. WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING ANSWERS TO THESE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS AS WELL AS ANY OTHER RELEVANT BACKGROUND ON THIS PROPOSED PROJECT FOR OUR OWN INFORMATION.

5. TEXT OF OPERATIVE PORTION OF OUR NOTE TO MFA IS AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT: (COMPLIMENTARY OPENING) THE EMBASSY "" AND HAS THE HONOR TO REQUEST THE ASSISTANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA IN EFFORTS TO GATHER TROPICAL METEOROLOGICAL DATA TO FACILITATE FORECASTING AND EARLY WARNING OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUALA 05898 161007Z

POSSIBLE CYCLONES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION. THIS PROJECT INVOLVES ACQUISITION OF TROPICAL METEOROLOGICAL DATA GATHERED FORM OVERWATER AREAS DESIGNATED BY THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL WEAHTER SERVICE AS HAVING POTENTIAL TO DEVELOP INTO ACUTAL CYCLONES (ALSO VARIOUSLY KNOWN AS TYPHOONS OR HURRICANES). THE DATA ACQUIRED IS USED BY CIVILIAN AND MILITARY (FOREIGN AND U.S.) AGENCIES TO PRODUCE FORECASTS THAT PREPARE COMMUNITIES FOR STORM PASSAGE. THESE STORM MONITORING MISSIONS WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT ATTACHED TO THE 54TH WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON (W.R.S.) AT ANDERSON AFB GUAM, BY THE JOINT TYPHOON WARNING CENTER (J.T.W.C.) LOCATED IN GUAM.

THE PROJECT IS UNCLASSIFIED AND ALL PROJECT DATA MAY BE OBTAINED THROUGH THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION CIRCUITS. THIS PROJECT WOULD PROVIDE CYCLONE (TYPHOON) SOTRM INFORMATION SUCH AS WIND VELOCITY AND DIRECTION OF MOVEMENT TO THE GOVERN MENTS IN THE AREA, WHICH WHEN TRANSLATED INTO EARLY STORM WARNINGS TO THE POPULACE CAN HAVE A MAJOR

IMPACT IN ALLEVIATING LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY
DAMAGE STEMMING FROM SUCH DESTRUCTIVE TROPICAL
STORMS, PARTICULARLY IN CYCLONE-PRONE COUNTRIES
SUCH AS BANGLADESH, INDIA AND BURMA.
THE PROPOSAL WOULD INVOLVE USE OF A WC-130 E/H
AIRCRAFT OPERATING OUT OF THE R.M.A.F. BASE AT
BUTTERWORTH, FLIGHTS WOULD TRACK SOTRM PATHS AND
MAKE SOTRM PENETRATIONS OF ALTITUDES OF 700 MILLI-
BARS OR BELOW; EQUIPEMENT ON BOARD THE AIRCRAFT
ARE PASSIVE WESTHER SENSORS OWNED BY THE
UNITED STATES GOVT. THE J.T.W.C. WOULD PROVIDE
MAXIMUM ADVANCE NOTIFICATION TO THE UNITED
STATES DEFENS ATTACHE OFFICE OF THE EMBASSY SO
THAT NECESSARY DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE FOR THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 KUALA 05898 161007Z

AIRCRAFT COULD BE OBTAINED. HOWEVER, IN VIEW
OF THE INHERENT VAGARIES OF DEVELOPING STORM
SITUATIONS, IT IS EXPECTED THAT IN MOST CASES LESS
THAN 24 HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE OF SUCH MISSIONS WOULD
BE PROVIDED. THESE STAGING OPERATIONS WOULD
PROBABLY BE REQUIRED ABOUT TWICE YEARLY, EACH
LASTING APPROXIMATELY FIVE DAY. NORMAL GOUND
TIME AT BUTTERWORTH WOULD BE 15 HOURS. ALL
PERSONNEL WOULD BE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE OFFICERS
AND ENLISTED AIRCREW MEMBERS.
THE EMBASSY LOOKS FORWAR TO RECEIVING AN
EARLY REPLY TO THIS REQUEST AND TO THE MALAYSIAN
GOVT'S COOPERATION IN THE PROJECT.
(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE). END TEXT.
ROSENTHAL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUALA05898
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: AS IFY UPON COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780251-1008
Format: TEL
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780651/aaaabrx.tel
Line Count: 151
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bad75087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 139753
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2324603
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN OCEAN TYPHOON (CYCLONE) RECONNAISSANCE
TAGS: OCLR, MY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bad75087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014